

EDWARD BENTON OF GUILFORD (CONN.) AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

Compiled by E. D. JAMES and summarized by Dr. BENJAMIN C. STEVEN.

1. EDWARD¹ BENTON was one of the early settlers of Guilford, though not a signer of the Plantation Covenant. He came possibly from Wethersfield or Milford, and was in the town as early as 1646, the oath of a freeman, was given him, May 19, 1651. This shows that he was a church member. His homestead was on the west side of the Green, and contained two acres. Other parcels of land owned by him amounted to sixty-three acres. He never bore any considerable public office, and was not entitled to the prefix "Mr." He was a brother of Andrew Benton of Milford and Hartford, who died July 21, 1633, aged 63, and who had a large family by his wife Hannah Stocking. Edward Benton married Anne, who was buried Aug. 12, 1671. He died Oct. 28, 1680. In 1671 his list was £78. 1s. His will, made Mich. 7, 1675/6, is of interest. It states that "as the holy Providence of God hath left the burden of a crippled child upon my head to be cared and provided for, who may live and be troublesome after my decease, Zachary Benton by name and that affection is an interruption to the more equal distribution of my small estate amongst all my children, I do, therefore, give only the sum of 5 shillings apiece unto my five children" (not including Zachary or Andrew) and to "my son Zachary Benton, I give a robe, which he shall choose. Item, I give to my son Daniel's widow a cow." "Lastly all the rest of my estate" "I give unto my son Andrew Benton, upon condition that he shall duly attend and provide for his brother Zachary Benton, during the term of his natural life with all conveniences of food and raiment, washing and lodging, suitable for him." Andrew is also made executor.

The children of Edward and Anne Benton were:

- I. 1. EDWARD,² b. 1650; d. Feb. 19, 1693-a.
2. II. DANIEL, b. 1656; d. June 5, 1673.
3. III. ANDREW, b. 1658; d. Jan. 15, 1718.
- IV. HANNAH, b. Sept. 29, 1660; m. Robert (?) Acersay of Albany.
5. MARY b. Feb. 8, 1661-a; m. Dec. 6, 1680 Samuel Throp of New Haven and Wallingford, who d. Feb. 3, 1718, m. 64. She d. March 1, 1719.
- VI. JOHN, b. June 14, 1668, d. before his father.
- VII. LUCY, b. 1668, m. Nov. 27, 1684, Simon Simpson of New Haven.
- VIII. ELIZABETH, b. June 3, 1667, buried April 3, 1684.
- IX. SARAH, b. Nov. 4, 1668, d. Dec. 29, 1685, m. Thomas Wright, Dec. 3, 1685. He d. Dec. 6, 1687.
- X. ZACHARY, b. Aug. 27, 1669, d. single.

2. EDWARD² BENTON, JR. (*Edward³*), of Glastenbury, Conn., m. Mary, who d. Aug. 8, 1702, m. 63.

Their children were:

- I. 1. ELIZABETH,³ b. ———; d. 1723.
- II. MARY
- III. SARAH, b. ———; m. Isaac Bortman, Jr., of Wethersfield, Dec. 7, 1723. He d. May 3, 1719, m. 23.
- IV. ELIZABETH, b. 1670; m. David Wright, son of James of Glastenbury, Aug. 11, 1686, and d. 1689. She d. June 8, 1764.
- V. DEBORAH.
- VI. DANIEL, d. young, 1689.
7. VII. EDWARD, b. ———; d. Apr. 29, 1713.

3. DANIEL² BENTON (*Edward¹*), of Guilford, m. Rachel Outridge or Goodrich, dau. Richard of Guilford, Dec. 23, 1658. She died Oct. 1690. His list in 1672 was £41. 15. Their home-lot in 1663 was one of two and a half acres on the north side of the Green, and was sold by their descendant, Lot Benton, in 1825, to the First Congregational Church, as a site for church and parsonage.

Their children were:

- i. JOSEPH,² b. Oct. 8, 1660; d. Dec. 29, 1692; m. John Turner, Dec. 16, 1688.
 - ii. FRANCIS, b. 1662; d. Jan. 25, 1696.
 - iii. HENRY, b. 1666, m. ————Stanford.
 - iv. BENJAMIN, b. Sept. 26, 1671; m. Joseph Bailey.
4. ANDREW² BENTON (*Edward¹*), of Guilford, m. Feb. 4, 1664, Elizabeth, dau. of Thomas R.H. He d. Oct. 27, 1713. He had a home-lot granted him by the town, containing one and three-fourth acres, "bounded by the crossways east by Samuel Hughes Westward by the two streets Northward and Southward" and inherited from his father, the home-lot on which the latter spent his last days, on Crooked Lane, now State street, containing three acres, with another piece adjoining, to all eight acres. This property is still held by his descendants. His list was £55. in 1652.

His children were:

- a. i. JAMES,³ b. Dec. 1, 1685; d. Nov. 7, 1735.
 - ii. JOSEPH, b. Feb. 4, 1688-9; buried Jan. 4, 1693-70.
 - b. iii. JAMES, b. April 12, 1690; d. June 17, 1718.
 - iv. ANDREW, b. 1694; d. single in 1734.
 - v. HIRSHAM, b. June 8, 1697; d. June 30, 1732; m. Sarah Tracts of Guilford, March 1, 1730. He d. Jan. 14, 1740.
 - vi. JAMES b. Apr. 20, 1699; d. July 21, 1766.
 - vii. BARNABAS; m. John Turner, Jr.
5. SAMUEL² BENTON (*Edward¹ Edward²*), of Gloucester; m. Mary, dau. Samuel Bradford, Feb. 1, 1703. She d. Dec. 6, 1747.

Their children were:

- i. SAMUEL,³ b. March 10, 1707.
 - ii. HARRIS b. July 1, 1710.
 - iii. HARRISON, b. Mich. 8, 1714; d. aged nine days.
 - iv. JONATHAN, b. Oct. 18, 1718; m. Feb. Elizabeth Peckley, May 8, 1742. She d. Jan. 24 1769, m. 40. Their children were: i. JAMES⁴ b. Feb. 1, 1748. ii. ARNOLD, b. Sept. 4, 1748. iii. JONATHAN, b. March 18, 1748. He m. 26, Deborah Williams, Aug. 14, 1769. She d. Nov. 18, 1794.
 - v. HARRISON, b. April 3, 1723; m. Dorothy Cook, Oct. 18, 1748. He d. Dec. 2, 1758. Their children were: i. JAMES⁴ b. March 18, 1748. ii. MARY, b. March 30, 1751.
 - vi. ARNOLD, b. Nov. 4, 1726.
6. EDWARD² BENTON (*Edward¹ Edward²*), of Gloucester; m. Mary, dau. Samuel Hale, Oct. 14, 1703.
- Their children were:
- i. JONAS,³ b. 1708.
 - ii. BRIDGES, b. 1709.
 - iii. MARY, b. 1710.
7. ELMER ELMERSON² BENTON of Guilford, spent his last part of his life in the part of the town known as Barchan Swamp. He is put down in 1890 as having served in the Indian wars. His list was £131 & 6. in 1718. He resigned his position as ensign on Oct. 13, 1727, because

"old and infirm," (Conn. Col. Recs.) yet lived twenty-one years longer, dying at the age of sixty-five. He was a wheelwright. He married Abigail, dau. of John Graves, June 14, 1804. She d. April 13, 1863.

Their children were:

- I. BARNES, b. June 1, 1805; d. Aug. 5, 1758; lived in Guilford and was Deacon in the Fourth Congregational Church there. He m. 1st, Elizabeth, dau. of John Norton, Aug. 3, 1729; she d. Sept. 23, 1793; 2d, Sarah, dau. of Samuel Camp and widow of Thomas Seward, wife d. March 18, 1768. His children were all by his first wife. They were: 1. Sarah, b. April 28, 1729; d. single Oct. 18, 1808. 2. David, b. Dec. 13, 1750; d. May 18, 1788. 3. Samuel, b. Dec. 19, 1750; d. Aug. 14, 1800. 4. Abner, b. Feb. 19, 1756; d. single July 10, 1794. 5. Jared, b. June 16, 1757; d. May 25, 1808; m. Elizabeth Collins, dau. of Oliver of Guilford, June 23, 1786; she died Oct. 18, 1834. 6. Selas, b. July 23, 1774; d. May 18, 1818; m. 1st, Abigail Linsley, dau. of Dan of Newford, June 3, 1768; she d. Feb. 24, 1813, aged 48, 61, 1st, wife Samuel Plant, Dec. 16, 1813; she d. Feb. 23, 1837, aged 78. 7. Nathan, b. July 3, 1781; d. Oct. 13, 1838, m. Rachel, dau. Joseph Chittenden, May 3, 1784; she d. Feb. 4, 1818. They had no children. 8. Ann, b. Aug. 29, 1787; m. Philip Mason, April 11, 1784. 9. Elizabeth, b. Dec. 30, 1788; m. Rufus Green, Nov. 7, 1793. 10. David, b. June 16, 1749; d. Dec. 11, 1784. 11. Alfred, b. Sept. 1770; d. Sept. 30, 1779.
- II. ELIZABETH, b. June 13, 1800; d. May 14, 1748; m. Samuel Reed, Jan. 29, 1757; he d. at Killingworth Nov. 3, 1790.
- III. EUSEBIUS, b. June 13, 1800; d. Feb. 11, 1770; lived in North Guilford and m. May 3, 1754, Esther Chittenden, who d. April 14, 1778. Their children were: 1. Nathaniel, b. Aug. 12, 1754, resided in Litchfield in 1784. 2. Eusebius, b. April 25, 1755; lived in Litchfield South Farms. 3. Stephen, b. Feb. 14, 1755; lived at Narragansett, N. Y., m. Feb. 17, 1771; widow Hannah Camp of Durham. 4. Timothy, b. Dec. 18, 1755; d. Nov. 27, 1807; lived in North Guilford and m. 1st Rachel Foster, Dec. 1, 1804; she d. July 9, 1788; 2d Desire, widow John Stevens, Jan. 13, 1805; she d. Aug. 18, 1871, having married a third husband Deacon Joel Rose. 5. John, b. Oct. 19, 1758; d. Nov. 15, 1788. 6. Joshua, b. July 3, 1755; lived in Goshen, Conn. 7. Lot, b. Jan. 17, 1759; d. Sept. 4, 1814; m. 1st, Catherine Lyman of Middletown, Oct. 21, 1784; she d. July 9, 1789. 2d, Anna Talcott of Durham, Jan. 13, 1800; she d. Oct. 24, 1804. 3d, Elizabeth, widow of his cousin, Jared Benton, Oct. 3, 1807; she d. Oct. 18, 1823. He had no children. In the early part of his life he lived in North Guilford, but the last portion of his life was spent in Guilford on the Green, where the First or North Congregational Church now stands. The well of his house still exists in the church cellar. His house was removed when the church was built, and still stands near the bridge on Willoughby St. Having no children, he adopted the Amos Lyman Beecher, a nephew of his first wife, brought him up and had him educated for the ministry. 8. Ruth, b. Feb. 9, 1749; d. April 20, 1803; m. June 1, 1767, James Thompson of Goshen; who d. Nov. 4, 1817, aged 76. 9. Rachel, b. Jan. 26, 1748; m. James Cox of Goshen, Jan. 21, 1767.
- IV. ABRAHAM, b. Dec. 30, 1709; d. April 30, 1745; m. Ebenezer Chittenden, March 16, 1740. He d. March 13, 1745.
- V. CALAN, b. July 26, 1800; d. Nov. 17, 1743; lived in Guilford and m. 1st, Sept. 28, 1743, Sarah Stone, who d. Feb. 17, 1748. Their children were: 1. Caleb, b. April 17, 1743, removed to America, N. Y., 1764, and d. Dec. 26, 1801; m. m. Sarah Bishop, Jan. 19, 1387, who d. April 24, 1808. 2. Phineas b. Aug. 28, 1744; d. Sept. 6, 1744. 3. Sarah, b. Feb. 1, 1747; d. Feb. 9, 1748. Rem. 16, Thankful Chittenden, Oct. 18, 1747; she d. Jan. 3, 1787. Their